

read 9/23/92
discussed 9/23/92

Puppet Script #4 - Sean Kelly

Could be ~~documentary~~

like the goofy documentaries

a bit thin / short

add more aspects to the documentary

describe them by roles - it's very important

- focus on individuals

- tuning up ~~the~~ / warming up /
playing a solo.

for the drummer
to maintain
a steady beat
and never to
take over

- more humor of visual being inconsistent
with audio

(e.g. Didi maintains his composure
while playing

Tex & Rex - never compete
with one another
deliberance - dueling

guitars

betcha can play this lick

Grace -

also multi cultural
→ like the ~~international~~ theme

perhaps spend

perhaps Hawaii

perhaps Cajun

perhaps cowboy

Very nice ~~premise~~ premise -

documentary of juke box people

SHINING TIME STATION

"PUPPET SCRIPT #4"

"A DAY IN THE LIFE"

BY SEAN KELLY

From characters and storylines created by
Britt Allcroft and Rick Siggelkow

**SECOND DRAFT
SEPTEMBER 21, 1992**

SCENE 1

(SLOW PAN AROUND STATION COMING TO
REST ON JUKEBOX)

VO:

Of all the astonishing
creatures with whom we
share our world, perhaps
none is more beloved...
or more misunderstood...
than the species
scientists call "The
Little People Who Live
Inside Jukeboxes".

(SLOW PUSH INTO JUKEBOX)

(DISSOLVE TO: JUKEBOX INTERIOR...
THE BASEMENT... TITO'S VAULT...)

(DISCOVER SLEEPING TITO [IN
PAJAMAS]... EXTREME CU TITO)

Here, in the area of
Shining Time Station
known as The Arcade, it
is barely dawn when our
camera discovers the
sleeping leader of one
particular band. Shhh.

(WHISPER)

~~As a band leader~~
His name is Tito Swing.
Tito is known to be a
master of all keyboard
instruments; a composer,
conductor and collector
of nickels. We can only
imagine what peaceful
dreams he must have...

("DREAM" EFFECTS DISSOLVE TO:)

✓
versatile &
one of the most ~~popular~~
jukebox bands ~~in the~~
country to be found
anywhere in the country

✓
this band leader
dignity and enthusiasm
is very important that

SCENE 2
(TRAIN SET)

(SONG -- JESSE JAMES)

(WHOLE CAST "ACTS OUT" SONG... TITO,
WEARING A BANDANA MASK AND WAVING
SIX-GUNS, PLAYS JESSE JAMES)

("DREAM EFFECTS DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 3
(JUKEBOX BASEMENT)

VO:

It is now 6:00 a.m., the
time when Little People
Who Live in the Jukebox
rouse themselves from
their night time
slumber.

(LOWER 1/3 CLOCK READING 6:00.
TITO'S ALARMS CLOCK RINGS LOUDLY...
MAYBE JUMPS AROUND... TITO REACHES
OUT AND SLAMS IT. RINGING STOPS.
TITO SNUGGLES BACK DOWN)

J.J. (VO):

Tito! Tito, baby! Rise
'n' shine! Up 'n' at
'em! It's show time.

(TITO SITS UP WITH A START. J.J.
SILVER STANDS OVER HIM)

TITO:


Cool it, J.J. I'm awake.
I'm just resting my
eyes...

SCENE 4

(J.J. ENTERS THE ELEVATOR... WE
TRAVEL WITH HIM)

VO:

One member of every band
of Little People Who Live
in Jukeboxes is known as
"The Band Manager." His
usefulness remains a
mystery to this day...



SCENE 5
(DRESSING ROOM)

(ELEVATOR STOPS AT DRESSING ROOM
LEVEL. J.J. STARES INTO DRESSING
ROOM WHERE REX, TEX, DIDI AND GRACE
ARE GETTING READY FOR THE DAY...)

VO:

This Band Manager is
called "J.J."
named

J.J.:

(VERY EXCITED)

Let's go, people! It's
magic time! Curtain up!
Let's go-go-GO!

ALL:

(VERY CASUAL)

Hi, J.J.... Good morning,
J.J.... Later, J.J....
(etc.)

*meaning
Explanation
We believe the origin of
the letters JJ have
something to do with
10th letter of the
alphabet.*

SCENE 6

(ON THE ELEVATOR, J.J. CONTINUES UP TO THE STAGE AREA, WHERE HE PACES AROUND, STARING NERVOUSLY)

(LOWER 1/3: 6:15)

VO:

It is now 6:15 in the morning, and something he sees in the station seems to have Manager J.J. even more than usually excited...

(J.J.'S POV FROM JUKEBOX INTERIOR... IN STATION, A CUSTOMER -- MAYBE A WOMAN COMMUTER WITH A BRIEFCASE -- APPROACHES THE JUKEBOX. ZOOM IN ON NICKEL IN HER HAND)

He has spotted his natural prey... a human being with a nickel.

(ANGLE ON HAND DEPOSITING COIN IN SLOT)

J.J.:

This is it. This is it!
Where is everybody?

(NICKEL MAKES ITS WAY DOWN CHUTE, WHILE J.J. DASHES AROUND FRANTICALLY)

J.J.:

What song did she pick?
Number 17. "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore". What am I gonna do?

(EXTERIOR JUKEBOX)

(COMMUTER STARES AT JUKEBOX, GIVES IT A SERIES OF LITTLE SMACKS)

SCENE 6 (CONT'D)

COMMUTER:

Is this thing broken or
something?

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(IT SHAKES AS IF IN A MINI-
EARTHQUAKE, AS J.J. APPROACHES THE
STS MICROPHONE)

J.J.:

Okay, keep your hat on,
lady. Gotta do
everything around here
myself... Ahem...

base
Lady wears hat

(HE BEGINS TO SING, SOFTLY AND
BADLY)

Michael, row the boat...

GRACE (OS):

We got it, J.J.!

(SONG -- MICHAEL ROW THE BOAT
ASHORE)

(INTERCUT COMMUTER STANDING NEAR
JUKEBOX, EYES CLOSED, DIGGING THE
MUSIC)

SCENE 7

(ESTABLISH BUSINESS AS PASSENGERS
CROSS, SIT, STAND, HURRY... TO
JUKEBOX EXTERIOR AND DISSOLVE TO
INTERIOR)

(GRAPHIC: 7:30)

VO:

It's now 7:30, and the
station is getting busy.
Strangely, the other inhabitants of
the world of Shining Time Station
seem unaware of these Little People
Who Live in the Jukebox.

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE EXERCISING...
TOUCHING TOES, DOING PUSH UPS, SIT
UPS, ETC... WHILE J.J. WALKS AMONG
THEM LIKE A GYM TEACHER)

VO:

In order to survive,
these tiny creatures must
remain keen of eye, quick
of hand, and physically
fit.

J.J.:

And one and two...
remember, no pain, no
nickels... up! Up! Tex.
Rex. Get the lead out.
Grace, Didi... go for the
burn.

3 more, 5 more,

DIDI:

J.J., I'm sick of these
exercises.

J.J.:

You've gotta stay in
shape, kid.

SCENE 7 (CONT'D)

GRACE:

Well, why don't we play
some kind of game?

*or get some ... by
playing*

J.J.:

Like for instance?

TITO:

Monopoly!

REX:

No, partner -- a sport!

TEX;

I have a hankering for
baseball!

ALL (ad lib):

Yeah! Baseball! Okay!
Batter up! (etc....)

J.J.:

You play. I'll keep
score.

(SONG -- TAKE ME OUT TO THE
BALL GAME)

SCENE 8
(INT. JUKEBOX)

(HAPPY PUPPETS IN BASEBALL GEAR
SPRAWL AROUND)

TITO:

That was fun! And I dig
that crazy song!

DIDI:

Me, too. You know, Tito,
I bet it would make a
totally fabulous
singalong.

TITO:

You think so, Did? Let's
give it a try... Ready,
everyone?

(SONG -- TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL
GAME -- SING-ALONG VERSION)

SCENE 9

(INT. JUKEBOX -- DRESSING ROOM)

(ALL THE PUPPETS ARE GATHERED WITH PLATES OF COOKIES AND GLASSES OF MILK. RELAXING, CHATTING [MOS[. CAMERA MOVES AROUND AND IN FOR ARBITRARY CLOSEUPS, DOCUMENTARY STYLE)

VO:

In mid-morning, the Little People perform bizarre ritual scientists call "a milk and cookie break." Curiously, although they inhabit a train station, they have abandoned the urge to travel. But the memory of their years on the road remains strong.

(DIDI AND GRACE ARE TALKING...)

DIDI:

Hey, Grace -- remember being on the road?

GRACE:

Travellin' from town to town, goin' places, movin' on... Those were the days.

DIDI:

What was your favorite trip?

GRACE:

Are you kidding, girlfriend? From NYC down south to Chatanooga. Uh-huh!

DIDI:

Yeah! That was the ginchy-est!

("MEMORY" EFFECTS DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 9 (CONT'D)

(SONG -- CHATANOOGA CHOO CHOO)

SCENE 10

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(J.J. STARING OUT OF INTO STATION)

J.J.:

Places, everyone!
Places, everyone!
Customer approaching...
Stand by for incoming
nickel!

(JUKEBOX EXTERIOR)

(PASSENGER, A BOY GAZES CAREFULLY
AT JUKEBOX, DEPOSITS COIN -- PAUSE
-- DEPOSITS SECOND COIN)

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(TWO NICKELS ROLL DOWN CHUTE. TITO
GOES NUTS)

TITO:

It's two! Two nickels!
A double feature, a twin
bill! I love that kid,
Okay, let's hit it! One,
two...

(SONG -- RAILROAD CARES ARE COMING)

(SONG -- TENNESSEE CENTRAL)

SCENE 11

(INT. JUKEBOX -- THE BASEMENT VAULT)

(TITO SITS AMIDST A HEAP OF NICKELS, LOOKING AT THEM, ENJOYING THEM...)

(DISSOLVE TO STAGE, WHERE DIDI, TITO, GRACE, THE BOYS AND J.J. ARE GATHERED AT A TABLE EATING LUNCH)

VO:

Each day at noon, the Little People Who Live in Jukeboxes eat lunch. The leader, Tito, apparently enjoys a diet of nickels... but the other members of the band consume normal food...

no

REX:

These barbecue ^{and} jelly beans are de-lish, Tex.

✓

TEX:

I used your recipe, Rex.

REX:

No wonder, then, *Tex*

GRACE:

More gum drop soup, J.J.?

another gumdrop sandwich

J.J.:

Well, maybe ^{just a half} another slice, ~~thank~~ you, Grace...

DIDI:

Does anyone want another glass of fish milk?

butterfly milk

multicolored barana carrot juice

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

REX:

Yes, please.

(REX BURPS)

'scuse me.

TEX:

Rex, I think you've had
enough.

DIDI:

Hey, where's my man,
Tito?

J.J.:

Still downstairs counting
his nickels, I suppose.
Oh-oh!

DIDI:

What?

J.J.:

Here comes another music
lover...

(JUKE BOX EXTERIOR)

(A MEXICAN WOMAN APPROACHES THE
JUKEBOX, READS THE PLAY LIST,
DEPOSITS A COIN)

J.J. (OS):

I'll go get Tito.

DIDI (OS):

Wait. Maybe we can do
this one without him.

TEX (OS):

Oh-oh.

SCENE 11 (CONT'D)

REX (OS):

She picked "Celito
Lindo."

GRACE (OS):

That's Tito's song.
Tito!

ALL:

(SHOUTING)

Tito! Tito!

(JUKEBOX EXTERIOR)

(THE MEXICAN WOMAN STARES, PUZZLED,
AT THE JUKEBOX. GIVE IT A GENTLE
SMACK OR TWO)

MEXICAN WOMAN:

!Calle, que
verquenza!

(TITO RIDES UP THROUGH THUMPS AND
TREMORS, AS THE GANG CALLS TO HIM)

ALL (OS):

(AD LIB)

Tito! Hey Tito! Get up
here! (etc...)

(JUKEBOX EXTERIOR)

(MEXICAN WOMAN SHRUGS, TURNS
AWAY... TURNS BACK AS SONG BEGINS,
SMILES...)

→ what a —
in character?

SCENE 12

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS ARE REHEARSING...
GRACE STANDS BESIDE DIDI, PLUCKING
WHILE DIDI BANGS AWAY... REX AND
TEX ARE TALKING AS THEIR HANDS MOVE
AROUND THE GUITAR... J.J. STANDS
BESIDE TITO WHO IS SHOWING HIM
SOMETHING ON THE KEYBOARD)

SCENE 12 (CONT'D)

(WE HEAR TUNING UP SOUNDS, SCALES,
RUNS, ETC. IN BG)

VO:

Making music comes
naturally to the Little
People Who Live in
Jukeboxes; it seems to be
as instinctive as the
courting dance of a stork
or the song of the
skylark...

TITO:

See, it's an E flat minor
with diminuendo.

GRACE:

So in the release we
change to a 5-4 tempo,
right?

TEX:

And then I'll do the
tenor harmony on the
chorus, okay?

J.J.:

People. People. Let's
try to get it right this
time.

TITO:

Okay, everyone, let's
take it from the top.

(SONG -- POLLYWOLLY DOODLE)

Yes

an opportunity
to describe each by
their roles.

perhaps with humor their
inconsistencies between
~~their~~ narrative and
visuals.

SCENE 13
(INT. JUKEBOX)

TITO:

So what do you think, J.J.

J.J.:

Terrific. Sensational.
Super.

(PAUSE)

But...

GRACE:

But?

J.J.:

Will it work as a
singalong?

DIDI:

Are you kidding? Of
course it's\ work as a
singalong. ✓

(PAUSE)

Won't it, Tito?

TITO:

Only one way to find out.
And one and two and one...

(SONG -- POLLYWOLLY DOODLE
SINGALONG)

SCENE 14
(MAINSET)

LOWER 1/3 GRAPHIC READS 3:00. VERY
LITTLE ACTION. SOMEONE SITTING ON
A BENCH READS A PAPER... CAMERA
SLOWLY MOVES TO JUKEBOX AND
DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE 15

(INT. JUKEBOX)

(THE PUPPETS SPRAWL, DOZING... DIDI
AT HER DRUMS. TITO AT HIS PIANO.
SNORING SOUNDS)

VO:

Mid-afternoon, and a calm
silence uncannily
envelopes the station,
including the secluded
world of the Little
People Who Live in the
Jukebox. They doze
securely in the knowledge
that nothing can disturb
their tranquil siesta...

(LOUDLY, A COIN DROPS INTO THE
SLOT. J.J. JUMPS UP, RUNS AROUND
WAKING THE OTHERS)

J.J.:

Tito, Didi, Grace, boys!
Surprise nickel!
Surprise nickel! A music
lover. A paying
customer. C'mon!

DIDI:

What number, Tito?

TITO:

It's 27, Didi. Sweet
Betsy. Ready, Tex?

TEX:

Roger.

TITO:

Ready, Rex?

REX:

Wilco.

TITO:

Then let's do it.

SCENE 16

(EXT. JUKEBOX)

(A JAMAICAN MAN [DRESSED
APPROPRIATELY] STANDS BY THE
JUKEBOX PERUSING THE PLAY LIST
UNTIL HE HAPPILY MAKES A SELECTION)

JAMAICAN:

Mmm... mmm... oh, yeah.
Cool runnings, mon!

SCENE 17
(INT. JUKEBOX)

(COIN DROPS DOWN. TITO SCOOTs OVER
TO COLLECT IT. EXAMINES IT)

TITO:

Hold it, everybody. This
isn't a real nickel.

(J.J. AND GRACE JOIN HIM TO
SCRUTINIZE THE COIN)

J.J.:

You mean it's fake? It's
a slug? Why of all
the... I oughta...

GRACE:

But guys, it's a real
coin. It's just from
another country. Yeah --
look -- it's from
Jamaica.

TITO:

Oh. That's okay then.
Everybody? One-two,
one-two...

(SONG -- JAMAICA FAREWELL)

be started

for a while

the country

the way we've

been that way

missing from our

collection

SCENE 18
(MAINSET)

(GRAPHIC READS 6:00. PEOPLE BUSTLE
OUT TO TRAINS. A TRAIN ROARS BY
OUTSIDE, AND ITS LIGHTS FLASH. PAN
AGAIN TO JUKEBOX)

(DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 19
(INT. JUKEBOX)

VO:

As evening falls, Shining
Time Station comes to
life once more, as herds
of migrating humans *being*
thunder home to dinner,
blissfully unaware of the
band of Little People
lurking nearby in the
Jukebox, hovering over
their day's collection of
nickels.

(REX, TEX, DIDI AND GRACE WATCH AS
J.J. AND TITO COUNT THE DAY'S TAKE
-- A HEAP OF COINS)

GRACE:

That's a lot of nickels!

J.J.:

...thirteen, fourteen...

DIDI:

So how'd we do today,
J.J.?

J.J.:

Didi, don't interrupt.
Now I've gotta start
over. One, two...

TITO:

But don't forget there's
a Jamaican coin in there
--- and the Mexican lady
used a Mexican coin...

J.J.:

And one of these nickels
is Canadian.

DIDI:

Hey, totally cool!

for collection

SCENE 19 (CONT'D)

(AT THE SOUND OF ANOTHER COIN
DROPPING, ALL LOOK UP. IT LANDS
AND TITO POUNCES ON IT)

J.J.:

I wonder where this one
comes from...

REX:

Maybe it's even American.

TITO:

It's not just ^{a regular} American -- ^{nickel} --
it's a genuine American
Buffalo Nickel! Look!

DIDI:

Oh, wow!

TEX:

Gives me a patriotic
kinda tingle all over!

REX:

Makes me wanna salute!

TITO:

Well what do you say?
Let's strike up the band!

(SONG - PATRIOTIC MEDLY)

SCENE 20 (CONT'D)
(MAINSET)

(DARK. GRAPHIC LOWER 1/3 READS
8:00. CAMERA WANDERS. DISCOVERS
CLOSED SIGN ON TICKET BOOTH, EMPTY
BENCHES, ETC. IN ON STILL-LIT
JUKEBOX. DISSOLVE TO:)

SCENE 21

(INT. JUKEBOX -- DRESSING ROOM)

VO:

Night has fallen, brining
to an end another day in
the lives of those exotic
creatures, The Little
People Who Live in
Jukeboxes. Because they
are anything but
nocturnal, they all fall
asleep at the first sign
of darkness...

(WHISPER)

and so we bid them and
you a quiet "goodnight."

(THE PUPPETS ARE INDEED IN THEIR
PAJAMAS BUT WIDE AWAKE)

J.J.:

Okay, everybody. Beddy-
bye. We've got a big day
tomorrow.

GRACE:

Didi, are you sleepy?

DIDI:

Like, totally not.

REX:

Neither am I.

TEX:

That goes double.

GRACE:

Let's tell scary stories.

J.J.:

People, people, please!

*Better lead in
needed*

of Midnight Special

It's about midnight

Goodnight scene

SCENE 21 (CONT'D)

TITO:

Let's do a scary song.

ALL:

(AD LIB)

Yeah! Okay. Let's...
(etc.)

(SONG -- MIDNIGHT SPECIAL)

Let's say goodnight
Let's say goodnight

Goodnight Dream